

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 FMC-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 /041 W

-----152341Z 081395 /65

R 151249Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4114

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8575

FOLG RECD AS ACTION DELHI INFO CALCUTTA MADRAS RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 1384

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJ: ALL INDIA PORT STRIKE THREAT: OPTIONS KEPT OPEN

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 8264; (B) MADRAS 0956

1. S.R. KULKARNI, PRESIDENT, ALL INDIA PORT AND DOCK WORKERS FEDERATION (AIPDWF) TLD CONGEN OFFICER ON JUNE 14 THAT AIPDWF IS KEEPING ITS STRIKE OPTION OPEN. KULKARNI SAID FLATLY THAT AS LONG AS THE GOI LABOR MINISTER IS WILLING TO DIALOGUE THE WORKERS WILL STAY ON THE JOB.

2. KULKARNI LISTED MAJOR DEMANDS AS: (A) UPWARD WAGE REVISION; (B) PAYMENT OF 20 PERCENT BONUS; (C) REVISION FROM 8 TO 10 PERCENT IN PROVIDENT FUND CONTRIBUTION BOTH BY EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEES; (D) INCREASE IN GRATUITY PAYMENT ON RETIREMENT FROM 15 DAYS TO 30 DAYS SALARY FOR EACH YEAR OF SERVICE; (E) CDS REFUND PAYMENT BY THE EMPLOYER (I.E. PORT AUTHORITIES), PENDING FINAL DECISION ON THE ISSUE BY GOI.

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3. ON THE ISSUE OF WAGE REVISION, KULKARNI SAID AIPDWF WOULD SETTLE FOR AN AMOUNT BETWEEN THE PRESENT MINIMUM OF RS.325 AND THE DEMANDED RS.375. ON BONUS, HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT PORT AUTHORITIES IN MADRAS AND CHINCHIN HAVE ALREADY GRANTED 8.33 PERCENT BONUS; THEREFORE BOMBAY PORT AUTHORITIES SHOULD FOLLOW SUIT. REGARDING CDS REFUND, HE GAVE THE DEFINITE

IMPRESSION THAT THIS ISSUE WAS A THROWAWAY.

4. KULKARNI ALSO TOLD US THAT OF THE 17 AFFILIATES TO THE AIPDWF ONLY ONE (SHANTI PATEL'S BOMBAY PORT TRUST EMPLOYEES UNION, BPTEU) HAD NOT YET ISSUED A STRIKE NOTICE AND THAT BPTEU CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS HAD NOT YET BEEN TAKEN AS A DEFINITIVE POSITION ON STRIKE BUT IS MEETING JUNE 15 ON THIS ISSUE. HE ALSO TOLD US THAT A FEW NON-AIPDWF UNIONS (INCLUDING AITUC UNIONS) OFFERED TO JOIN IN ISSUING STRIKE NOTICES, BUT AIPDWF WAS YET NOT RESPONDED TO THESE OFFERS.

5. COMMENT: KULKARNI LED US WITH THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT, IF POSSIBLE, AIPDWF WOULD PREFER TO AVOID A STRIKE. HE NOTED THE 11- DAY STRIKE OF BPTEU COST EACH WORKER RS.500, WHICH THEY COULD ILL AFFORD, IN ADDITION TO THE "NATIONAL LOSS". KULKARNI SAID HE WOULD PREFER THAT THE GOI LABOR MINISTER HOLD TALKS IN BOMBAY AS, HE POINTLY NOTED, HE DID WITH SHANTI PATEL, BUT IS PERFECTLY PREPARED TO TRAVEL TO NEW DELHI FOR MEETINGS. KULKARNI STRESSED THAT SHOULD A STRIKE OCCUR IT WOULD BE ON BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES; "IT WOULD NOT BE 'POLITICAL'".

COURTNEY UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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